

SAINT LOUIS BIRD CLUB

BULLETIN

VOL. 2, No. 4

MARCH, 1943

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

Alfred M. Bailey, Director of the Colorado Museum of Natural History and widely known Arctic, Hawaiian and Abyssinian explorer, will return, Tuesday, March 2nd, at 8 o'clock, to the St. Louis University Auditorium, just one year to the day since his last Club lecture. He will present an entirely new all-color motion picture, "Color in the Southwest," and it's simply chock-full of scenes of that picturesque country. At the lecture, you'll find yourself on the desert in springtime . . . It's at the very height of beauty: the ocatilla, cholla and annuals are in full bloom. Mr. Bailey will escort you to an Indian village on the Rio Grande; the great meteorite crater of Arizona; the Saguro and Picacho Monuments; Grand and Bryce Canyons. No, we haven't forgotten to mention the birds! There are plenty of them and you'll really go for this dramatic personae: Cactus Wren, Palmer's Thrasher, Gambel's Quail . . . to mention a few. Before returning to Denver, Mr. Bailey will lecture at the American Museum of Natural History, Columbia University, Massachusetts Audubon Society, Academy of Sciences, Philadelphia, and the Field Museum, Chicago. This lecture is a must! So keep the date open and bring your friends along.



ALFRED M. BAILEY

KUBICHEK CAPTIVATES

It's as simple as a twist-of-the-wrist! Except in a Burrowing Owl's case it's a ludicrous twist-of-the-neck that puts across that very wise old Owl's opinion of a certain genus known as homo sapiens. And it only took one twist of an Owl's neck to bring down the house at the W. F. Kubichek lecture, Feb. 8th. When we say house, we mean house . . . an attendance just under a thousand people; 950 is our guess. That's a very gratifying audience . . . and apparently the audience was very gratified itself if the spontaneous applause at the many breathtaking shots was any indication. Certainly Mr. Kubichek's life history of the Western Grebe was something to applaud. Of such grace and beauty in bird-life we've never even dreamed. It was something we can't even begin to describe. If you were among the unfortunate who missed those Western Grebes and the forty other species of birds Mr. Kubichek brought with him from the Fish and Wildlife Service, all we have to say is, "Brother, you missed something!"

FORTY MORE DAYS 'TIL APRIL 4th

And the first Forest Park Bird Walk of the year. This is a Bird Club tradition to which we all look forward, but there are problems this year . . . big problems. First and foremost is the question of group leaders. Twenty or more leaders are needed each Sunday during April. With many of our members in the Services we will need the full cooperation of those at home and many new volunteers to act as leaders and assistants. Will you help? We need you! Please let us hear from you.

Mark this date, April 5th, and the place, St. Louis University Auditorium, on your calendar now! Talk to your friends and urge them to reserve the evening for Bird Club Loyalty Night with Dr. A. A. Allen, celebrated ornithologist of Cornell University. All-color motion pictures, ILLUSTRATED WITH BIRD SONGS, "Listening in on the Home Life of Birds."



ST. LOUIS BIRD CLUB BULLETIN

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Here is gratifying proof that we're a real Club: President Short's request that members send him extra clippings of the January 17th Grossenheider Post-Dispatch page of pictures netted almost a hundred copies! Thanks. The clippings were put to good use across the country and even overseas.

Bird Club members are invited to be guests of the St. Louis Horticultural Society at their meeting, March 5th, 8:30 P.M., in the Washington University Medical School Auditorium, Scott and Euclid Avenues. A color motion picture will be followed by a talk on Victory Gardens presented by Paul Kohl of the Missouri Botanical Garden.

We are happy to announce that the White Pelican has been placed on the protected list by the Missouri Conservation Commission. This good news came about through a change of view by the Commission after suggestions on the part of such groups as the Natural Resources Council, the St. Louis Bird Club, Missouri Audubon Society, Webster Groves Nature Study Society, and others.

The Editorial Staff on behalf of the entire Club takes this opportunity to congratulate our capable President, Wayne Short, on his re-election. Welcome back to the Vice-presidency too, faithful Luther Ely Smith. Alberta Bolinger inherits that thankless job of Treasurer again. Few of us realize how tremendous is Alberta's contribution of time and energy to the Club. Her enthusiasm, efficiency, and will to see a job well done are characteristics so admirable we want all of you to know about it.

NO LIMITATION ON B. H. A. !

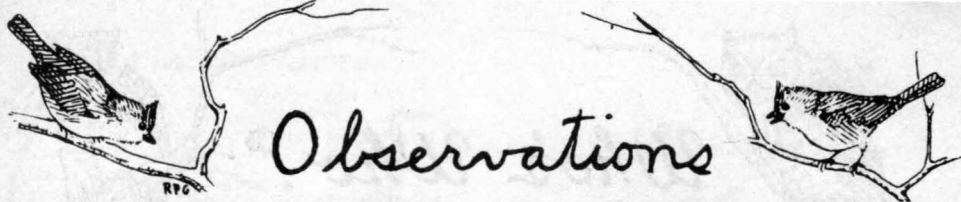
That's right—there's no limitation on the B. H. A. (Bird Housing Association) in spite of the restrictive rulings of the F. H. A., W. P. B., F. P. H. A. and other Government Agencies. You are free to build any number and design of bird houses you may desire . . . the more the merrier. And there is a definite need for bird housing beyond the pleasure we derive from acquiring a "good neighbor."

The Bluebird, probably the best known and most sought after inhabitant of artificial nesting boxes, has been deprived of many hollows which he formerly used for nesting, due to the untimely increase of House Sparrows and particularly Starlings. This problem became so acute that in some states, especially in the East, their numbers decreased alarmingly. Many individuals, groups and clubs all over the country, recognizing this unfortunate trend, started bird housing projects as a possible solution and the results have been gratifying. One of the first of these projects was initiated by T. E. Musselman of Quincy, Illinois, who now has more than 500 houses posted along the highways leading into Quincy. Thanks to the Better Gardens Club of St. Louis and the Federated Garden Clubs of Mo., 4,640 Bluebird houses were placed along Missouri's highways in 1942.

Everyone can participate in this enjoyable work even though his activities may be confined to his own back yard. Remember first, that a good bird house like a well-built home should provide ventilation, drainage and sanitation for the tenants. The ventilation can be furnished by a small slit just under the roof, and several holes drilled in the bottom of the box will provide ample drainage. A hinged roof allows periodic inspection and easy removal of the old nest for house cleaning and dusting-out with sulphur after the departure of each brood.

With these requisites in mind, get your materials. Barked wooden slabs can be purchased reasonably at most places where cord wood is sold and they make ideal homes strongly resembling the tree hollows normally chosen by the birds as nesting sites. Common box lumber at least one-half inch thick is readily available and works equally well. Following specifications in one of the pamphlets listed below, a box can be built that will sell itself to the birds. And when the house is completed, don't overlook the importance of placing it in a desirable location. Don't make a tenement area of your back yard—the birds like an uncrowded neighborhood too. Three or four boxes per acre is an ample number and you can plan your placement accordingly. Birds will be spring house-hunting soon, so let's be ready for them.

These excellent articles are available for five cents each: Bird Houses, by Roger Tory Peterson, obtainable from the National Audubon Society, 1006 5th Ave., N. Y. City, and Homes For Birds, Bulletin No. 1456 from the Supt. of Documents, Washington, D.C.



THE CHRISTMAS CENSUS

Due to transportation problems, there was no officially scheduled Bird Club Census this year. However, individual censuses were taken by some of the Club's members and by groups from the Webster Groves Nature Study Society and the Grafton Nature League. We think you'll be interested in the combined list of four different groups observing independently and at different times during Christmas week. Although this list is not as impressive as some combined censuses taken during past years, we feel that this is mainly caused by the smaller area covered and the fewer numbers of observers, together with the fact that the Grafton census was taken under the most severe weather conditions and the birds were unusually inactive. In spite of these obstacles there were some good "finds" such as the Canada Goose, Short-eared Owl, Winter Wren and the abundance of woodpeckers reported for the region. The total of 76 species is an education in itself, a barometer of which species can be found in the St. Louis area in winter: Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Canada Goose, Mallard, Black Duck, Gadwall, Baldpate, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup Duck, American Golden-eye, Buffle-head, Hooded Merganser, American Merganser, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, American Rough-legged Hawk, Bald Eagle, Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Bobwhite, Ring-necked Pheasant, Kildeer, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Barred Owl, Short-eared Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, E. Hair Woodpecker, N. Downy Woodpecker, Prairie Horned Lark, Blue Jay, E. Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Bluebird, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Migrant Shrike, Starling, English Sparrow, European Tree Sparrow, E. Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Bronzed Grackle, Cardinal, Purple Finch, Goldfinch, Slate-colored Junco, Eastern Tree Sparrow, Eastern Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Mississippi Song Sparrow.

Hats off to the eight Alton members and Father Link of Michael, Illinois for braving the zero weather to attend the Maslowski lecture.

LOOKING BACK

Just as the Christmas Census summary gives you an "education" on the subject of what birds are to be found in the region during winter, so should a study of the following "birds of the year" lists solve to some extent the problem of which birds are rare "finds" in this area. For the past five years we've compiled a list of the "birds of the year". We set the lists side by side here for your study and comparison for we think you'll find it interesting to see how some species rose and fell in rank for these reasons: sometimes they were pushed out by better observations; or they dropped because of the fact that they've been seen more often in the past half decade compared with few records in the more remote past. It's interesting too to note that two or three species, ranked either too high or too low in our earlier lists, now are definitely out of place due to the fact that experience is showing them to be rarer or commoner than believed. The best year was memorable 1939 when the birds of the year were these: Glossy Ibis, Western Grebe, Sprague's Pipit, Northern Phalarope, Snowy Egret, Cinnamon Teal, Hudsonian Godwit, Holboell's Grebe, Franklin's Gull, Red-backed Sandpiper, Eared Grebe, Yellow Rail. Next best was 1938: Purple Sandpiper, Arkansas Kingbird, Ruddy Turnstone, Little Brown Crane, Red-backed Sandpiper, Old Squaw, Black-bellied Plover, Western Willet, Yellow Rail, Wood Ibis, Greater Scaup. Last year, 1942, ranks next, our best year in fact in the last three: Red-throated Loon, Purple Gallinule, Piping Plover, Holboell's Grebe, White-rumped Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Arkansas Kingbird, White-winged Scoter, Snowy Egret, Old Squaw, Sanderling, Bohemian Waxwing, American Scoter, Greater Scaup, Red-backed Sandpiper. In 1940: White-rumped Sandpiper, Bohemian Waxwing, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Northern Phalarope, Arkansas Kingbird, Cinnamon Teal, Bonaparte's Gull, Harris' Sparrow, White Pelican, Saw-whet Owl, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Wilson's Phalarope. And last in order, 1941: Avocet, Nelson's Sparrow, Ruddy Turnstone, Western Willet, Snowy Egret, Bohemian Waxwing, Red-backed Sandpiper, Sanderling, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Black-bellied Plover, Harris' Sparrow, Bonaparte's Gull.

Mail this Bulletin on to a friend who might be interested. Or if you wish to keep it as a record, phone Anne Bayha, GO. 8013, for an extra copy.



Who's Who?



P.F.C. James Earl Comfort recently arrived home for a two-week sick leave, in time to take one of the best tonics we know of for any kind of ailment . . . the Kubichek lecture. Comfort is attached to a special group guarding the White House and other important Government buildings. Every spare moment of his time has been spent keeping up with the birds, and interesting reports on his birding experiences during cross-country travels have appeared in the "Bluebird". He is well on the way to recovery.

Mr. Harold I. O'Byrne, Conservator, Rockwoods Reservation, will conduct a Natural History course at Washington University on Saturdays, March 27 to May 15 inclusive. Call the University for further details about this outstanding course.

The Allen lecture Committee consists of the following members: Cecilia Lehmann, Chairman, Hattie Ettinger, Alberta Bolinger, Mrs. G. H. Klinkerfuss, Mrs. H. R. Grummann, Mrs. Jos. E. Vollmar, Ethel Wolfe, Mrs. Gertrude Drury, Alice Beaman, Anna Beck, Nora Binnington, Helen Bowman, Don Menke, Catherine Wood, Elizabeth Golterman, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Berkowitz, Bernice Hosch, Mary Sue Patton, Frances Pickel, Nelle Lee Jenkinson, Mrs. Elinor Hayward.

Margaret March-Mount, Club member from Milwaukee, who is a representative of the U. S. Forestry Service, was in St. Louis January 25th through January 28th. During her stay, she gave a spirited talk entitled "Pass the Wooden Ammunition" before the Marguerite Krueger Conservation Club in the Stix, Baer and Fuller Auditorium. After the lecture a luncheon was given in her honor.

Francis S. MacNutt has asked that we continue to send the Bulletin to his new address at Wigglesworth, C-12, Harvard College, Cambridge, Mass. It's encouraging to know that our out-of-town members are still interested in the Club's activities.

New Active members since January: Miss R. L. Barry, Miss Roberta Foote, Mr. C. B. Fall, Mrs. G. Loeffel, Mr. Hugo Palm, Mrs. Waldemar A. Palm, Miss Winifred Patterson, Mr. Water H. H. Schaefer, Miss Erna Schmidt, Miss Ette Smith.

Mrs. David Peery has moved to State College, Pennsylvania but has renewed her Club membership for 1943.

Home on furlough just in time to hear the Kubichek lecture: Sgt. Richard Grossenheider. Dick recently completed a portrait of Lieutenant-General Walter Krueger, Commander of the Third Army at San Antonio, Texas. The portrait was presented to General Krueger as a surprise on his sixty-second birthday by the Third Army Staff. Dick had done a splendid job using photographs for models and adding an occasional detail gleaned from watching the General at work. Since entering the Army, Dick has served with the Army Air Forces in Arizona, the Signal Corps at Fort Sam Houston and is now attached to the office of an Assistant Chief of Staff of the Third Army.

"I'm finding Ireland a friendly place, and very beautiful." So writes Lieut. O. A. Wilson, former Jennings High School teacher and Bird Club member. Lieut. Wilson tells us that he hasn't had much opportunity to observe the Irish flora and fauna but he has noticed an abundance of Crows and striking black and white Magpies. We'd like to have more letters like this one, written on "the banks of the Shannon", from our members in the Services all over the world.

Send your news items for this page to Don Menke, 3 Berrywood Drive, Glendale, Mo.

C. E. Gillham, whose lectures have been so enthusiastically received by the Club in the past, is now with the Alaska Game Commission, stationed at Juneau.

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